

STERILE COCKPIT IN CAP AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

1) A significant number of CAP taxi and flight incidents are caused by distraction of the pilot-in-command. This safety memorandum sets forth a recommended procedure for all CAP aircrews to enhance safety by reducing distractions to the pilot in command. Utilization of the procedures recommended below will bring CAP flight operations to the higher safety standards of Federal Aviation Regulation 121.542 and 135.100.

2) During pre-flight briefings, the pilot-in-command should brief passengers and crew regarding **STERILE COCKPIT OPERATIONS**, including:

a) A **CRITICAL PHASE OF FLIGHT** includes taxi, takeoff and landing and all flight conducted before the aircraft levels-off in cruise flight or after the aircraft begins to descend from cruise flight for landing.

b) During a **CRITICAL PHASE OF FLIGHT** crewmembers and passengers should refrain from conversation not pertinent or necessary for the flying task at hand, or any activity which could distract the pilot in command from the performance of duties or which could interfere in any way with the proper conduct of those duties.

3) Examples of activities which should not be performed during a critical phase of flight include: engaging in conversations not absolutely essential to safety of the aircraft, reading publications not related to the proper conduct of the flight.

4) The honor and integrity of CAP flight crews is called upon for the effective implementation of this memorandum so as to continue the long tradition of CAP maintaining a safety record in flight operations that is substantially better than is found in General Aviation.

5) Nothing in this memorandum modifies or supplements any CAP Regulation, nor does this memorandum create, modify, or enhance any standard of care or duty that is applicable to carrying out CAP or Air Force assigned missions. This memorandum is intended to improve safety, through a voluntary procedure, and non-compliance with this memorandum is not intended to, and shall not be construed to, diminish the eligibility to receive benefits that are otherwise payable to CAP personnel under State and Federal laws of the United States or CAP Regulations.



WILLIAM W. WEBB, Colonel, CAP
Commander